(b) During 10th plan, 79 projects/project components were included in AIBP of which 10 projects/project components have been completed. Most of the remaining projects are on schedule. Total targeted irrigation potential from all major and medium projects included in AIBP is 8.276 mha and potential created from major and medium projects up to March, 2006 is 3.74 mha. of the 5562 minor irrigation schemes included in AIBP, 4187 schemes have been completed up to March, 2006.

(c) The Government of India has initiated several measures for expeditious completion of ongoing projects under AIBP which include vigorous monitoring of projects, linking utilization of Central Assistance to physical achievements in terms of potential creation, release of grants based on the Memorandum of Understanding and Utilization Certificates and conversion of grant provided into Loan in case the project targets are not achieved.

Central Assistance under AIBP to Cover Drought Prone Areas

1624. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have relaxed the criteria for Central assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme to cover drought prone areas identified under the Prime Ministers' package for agrarian distress in an attempt to give irrigation coverage a hard push;

(b) if so, whether the relaxation is expected to put the completion of pending irrigation projects on the fast track;

(c) whether the Bharat Nirman plan seeks to create 10 million hectare additional assured irrigation by 2009; and

(d) if so, to what extent this reorganizing role will provide better food production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The criteria for AIBP has been relaxed by the Government following the decision of Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 16th November, 2006. Accordingly, the projects included in Prime Minister's Relief package for agrarian distress

districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra are to be included in AIBP in relaxation of one to one norm for inclusion of new projects under AIBP. The Union Government is providing grant amounting to 90% of project cost included in AIBP, if a project is identified as benefiting drought prone/tribal area by the Planning Commission. These relaxations are made in order to accelerate creation of irrigation potential as well as completion of identified projects under AIBP.

The Bharat Nirman plan seeks to create 10 million ha of irrigation potential by 2009. Creation of additional irrigation potential under Bharat Nirman intends to increase foodgrain production in the country to meet its increasing demand.

Disputes over Mullaperiyar river

1625. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated discussion at the level of Chief Ministers of Kerala and Karnataka for finding a solution to the dispute over Mullaperiyar Water;

(b) if so, what are the results thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Kerala has agreed to give water to Tamil Nadu as before and wanted a new Dam to be constructed at Mullaperiyar for ensuring safety of life and properties of people of Kerala, atleast in several districts of Kerala; and

(d) what is the present stage of talk which has been dead locked and what further initiative is being contemplated by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) convened an inter-State meeting of the Chief Ministers of States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala on Mullaperiyar dam issue on 29.11.2006 at New Delhi. The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers, Ministers (WR/PW) of the two States as well as Senior Officers